

Application Number 09/733,302
Response to Office Action mailed December 14, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A connective tissue distraction device comprising:

- a) first transmitting means for transmitting force to a first tissue region,
- b) second transmitting means for transmitting force to a second tissue region,
- c) expansion means for engaging the first transmitting means and the second transmitting means and for exerting force distracting the said first transmitting means from the said second transmitting means to create a distraction space for formation of distracted connective tissue, and for disengaging from the first transmitting means and the second transmitting means after the distraction is complete.

wherein at least one or two of the said first transmitting means, the said second transmitting means and the said expansion means comprises a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material;

~~further wherein said expansion means is not integral to at least one of said first transmitting means and said second transmitting means.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the said first transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein the said structure for attachment to bone comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein the said structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

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Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein the said structure for attachment to bone is attached to bone via at least one screw.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 5, wherein the said screw is at least in part biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 7 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the said structure for attachment to bone is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 9 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the said structure for attachment to bone is attached to bone via at least one screw.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 10, wherein the said screw is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 12 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first transmitting means, second transmitting means or the expansion means comprise a malleable or heat malleable material.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the said first tissue region comprises connective tissue.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein
the said first tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein
the said second tissue region comprises connective tissue.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein
the said second tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 17 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the expansion
means comprises a screw actuated expansion mechanism.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein
the said expansion means comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable
material.

Claim 19 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, further comprising an
activation means.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein
the said activation means is directly or indirectly engaged with expansion means.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 20, wherein
the said activation means is reversibly engaged with the expansion means.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Canceled).

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Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein at least a portion of the activation means is external to the subject.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A method of distracting a first tissue region and a second tissue region, comprising:

implanting a first transmitting means onto the first tissue region;
implanting a second transmitting means onto the second tissue region;
engaging an expansion means with the first and second transmitting means;
activating the expansion means to exert a force distracting the first transmitting means
from the second transmitting means to create a distraction space for formation of distracted
tissue; and

disengaging the expansion means from the first transmitting means and the second
transmitting means after the distraction is complete

~~the connective tissue distraction device of claim 1 into a subject and distracting the first~~
~~tissue region and the second tissue region.~~

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 25, further comprising separating the first
and second tissue regions before implanting of the first and second transmitting means wherein
the said first tissue region and the said second tissue region are separated.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 26, further including separating the first
and second tissue regions via an osteotomy before implanting of the first and second transmitting
means wherein the first tissue region and the second tissue region are separated by an osteotomy.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 27, further including separating the first
and second tissue regions via an osteotomy on tissue intermediate the first and second tissue
regions wherein said osteotomy is intermediate the first and second tissue regions.

Claim 29-41 (Canceled).